

Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. today responded to the passage of HR 8, the Estate Tax Repeal Permanency Act of 2005.

"This week's debate over eliminating the estate tax is a prime example of how conservatives have sacrificed the needs of ordinary citizens for the wishes of the wealthy. Instead of giving a kick back to those with large amounts of money to pass on to their heirs, we should be working to find ways to ease the tax burden on working families," Jackson said.

"Little attention has been given to the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). In 1994, 369,000 people paid the AMT. **This year, over 3 million people** will have minimum tax liability, and without changes to the system, 30 million taxpayers will be affected in 2010. By then, 30% of all taxpayers will have to pay the AMT. In contrast, **only 30,627 of the wealthiest Americans paid the estate tax last year**. That is less than 1% of all taxpayers.

"If Republicans in Congress were truly serious about extending tax relief to more Americans, they would have passed a bill addressing the AMT, which affects almost 100 times more people this year than the estate tax. It is long past time for the Congress to get down to the business of working on behalf of more Americans than just the privileged few," Jackson concluded.